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Ketchum Administrative Site
(U.S. Forest Service Administrative Site)
Sawtooth National Forest
117 and 119 River Street
Ketchum
Blaine County
Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

HABS
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**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
KETCHUM ADMINISTRATIVE SITE (U.S. Forest Service Administrative Site)**

HABS No. ID-109

Location: 117 and 119 River Street, Block 40 in Ketchum, Blaine County, Idaho. Bounded by Washington Street to the northeast, River Street to the southeast, First Avenue to the southwest and First Street to the northwest.

Quad: Center of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 4 North, Range 18 East, 1967 U.S.G.S. Sun Valley Quadrangle, 7.5 minute, Boise Meridian.

UTM coordinates Zone 11, 712600mE, 4839330mN.

Present Owner: City of Ketchum, Idaho

Present Occupant: City of Ketchum, Idaho

Present Use: Dwelling and office are being used by Ketchum city firefighters. The remaining structures are unoccupied. The Sun Valley Historical Society and the city of Ketchum are planning to designate the administrative site as 'Forest Service Block'. Future use is proposed as a city park and historic site.

Significance: The compound was the District Office of the Ketchum District Ranger, Sawtooth National Forest from 1929 to 1965. From 1965 to 1992 it served as a Forest Service work station and residence for employees. In 1992 the compound was exchanged out of federal ownership. The compound is typical of Forest Service compounds constructed during the Depression Era, and retains much of its original character.

II. HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE KETCHUM ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

In 1908 the Sawtooth National Forest was divided into 3 Ranger districts: #1, which included the area within the Wood River drainage, #2, which included the area within the Boise River drainage, and #3, which included the area within the Salmon River drainage. A guard station was erected on each of these districts, with #1 at Greenhorn, #2 at Soldier, and #3 at Pole Creek. In 1915 Districts #1 and #2 were split to make a total of 5 districts. The lower half of #1 remained the Greenhorn District, while the upper half became known as the Flowers district. A guard station was erected at Adams Gulch and was called the Flowers Guard Station. In 1931 the Flowers Ranger District was renamed the Ketchum Ranger District (Anonymous 1941:28-29).

From 1926 to 1933 the Flowers/Ketchum Ranger district was operated out of the private residence of District Ranger Arthur H. Berry. Lots 6, 7, and 8 of Block 40 in Ketchum had been acquired on April 10, 1926, and in 1929 the entire block was fenced with four-foot woven wire attached to creosoted posts set 2 feet in the ground and 10 feet apart. This fence has since been replaced. Also in 1929 the first structure of a new administrative site was built. This was the present central warehouse (Building #1334), which was constructed by Ranger Berry and two helpers. Soon after this a 2-room office-and-dwelling was moved to the Ketchum site from the old Flowers Station in Adams Gulch, about 2 miles from Ketchum. This building was 16 x 28 feet in size, having two rooms, with two doors, 5 windows, a kitchen sink, and a brick [cement] chimney* (Berry 1932; see also photograph in Anonymous n.d.a). In 1931 a cesspool was dug five feet from the south wall of the present central warehouse to serve the flush toilet in that building, and in 1932 a well was drilled to a depth of 84 feet to supply water.

On January 3, 1933, the remaining lots (1 through 5) of Block 40 were acquired, and by June 27, 1933, it was reported that an improvement plan had been drafted for the site:

The building corners are staked out on the ground and roads are indicated by center or side stakes.

The proposed Plan calls for the erection of a dwelling of the Plan R-4-1 Plan, a two car garage, plan R-4-20, and office using Plan R-4-7, two cattle guards of the 15 ton capacity, one of a 3 ton capacity, a warehouse 32 ft. by 72 ft., and the remodeling and improving of the present two room guard station [the office-and-dwelling from the Flowers Ranger Station]. (Nichols 1933).

In the spring of 1933, Company 971 established the Ketchum CCC Camp (F-81) on Warm Springs Creek about 5 miles above Ketchum, and during the summer enrollees from this camp constructed a dwelling (Building #1119), office (Building #1337), 2-car garage (Building #1131), 2 warehouses (Buildings #1335 and #1357), and a pumphouse (Building #1609) at the Ketchum Administrative Site. Apparently the structure from the old Flowers guard station was not remodeled as proposed. Instead, at 2:00 p.m. on September 23, 1933, it was sold at auction for \$57.00 to Forrest McCoy of Ketchum. The building was then removed from the site (Benedict 1933).

The Ketchum Administrative Site was occupied by Ranger Berry and his staff in the fall of 1933. But the complex was not yet finished. On January 12, 1934, Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor Miller S. Benedict wrote,

[The] ranger station was partially completed last summer and fall, largely by the help of CCC boys. To complete the buildings an expenditure of \$3500 will probably be necessary, inasmuch as the prorated CCC labor cost is rather high. Authority is desired to expend Imprnira funds to complete the building (the total cost of which from all funds is not to exceed \$3500). (Benedict 1934).

Plans included construction of a gas and oil house, as well as improvements such as painting and pouring of concrete floors on existing buildings. Ultimately the following eight structures comprised the Ketchum Administrative Site:

Structures at the Ketchum Administrative Site (State No. 10BN120)

<u>Bldg. No.</u>	<u>FS Site No.</u>	<u>Building Function or Name</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Plan</u>
1119	SW-300-1	ranger's dwelling	1933	R4-1
1137	SW-300-2	office	1933	R4-51
1331	SW-300-3	garage	1933	R4-20
1332	SW-300-4	gas and oil house	1938	R4-95
1357	SW-300-5	west warehouse	1933	R4-33
1335	SW-300-6	east warehouse	1933	R4-33
1334	SW-300-7	central warehouse	1929	--
1609	SW-300-8	pumphouse	1933	--

The landscape design for this complex was described in the mid-1930's as follows:

A lawn with a total frontage of 95 feet and extending back to the back of the dwelling and office on both sides, is well established. This area was leveled and rolled before the lawn was sowed. This was done in April, 1935. The lawn is watered by a system of underground pipes with sprinkler heads extending slightly above the surface which are concealed by the grass. Sixteen Carolina Poplars and twenty-eight Engelmann Spruce trees have been planted on block 40. A small area along the west fence is in raspberry and strawberry plants. it is planned to plant a little shrubbery near the dwelling and office which should be sufficient in the way of landscaping. The area around the warehouses is to be covered with shale and all plant growth is to be discouraged. A driveway enters the block on the south side which goes directly between the office and dwelling to a two-car garage and also to the warehouses in the rear. Another enters the block on the west side which serves principally for access to the warehouses. Cattle guards are installed at both entrances. (Anonymous n.d.a and n.d.b).

The cattle guards have been removed, and the entrance to the block from the west has been blocked by a fence. All eight of the structures in this complex are still standing, however, and each is documented below. In November, 1965, the Ketchum District office was moved to new quarters at 206 Sun Valley Road. Thereafter the 1930's compound served as a work station and residence for various Forest Service personnel until exchanged out of federal ownership on October 30, 1992.

III. REFERENCES CITED

Anonymous

- 1941 *Sawtooth Historical Information*. Unpublished typescript on file at Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor's Office, Twin Falls, Idaho.
- n.d.a *Administrative Site Improvement Plans.* [Large binder containing site plans, building descriptions, and photographs from the mid-1930's].
- n.d.b *Administrative Site Improvement Plans.* [Same as Anonymous n.d.a, but without photographs and with updated Ketchum building descriptions to 1939].

Benedict, Miller S.

- 1933 [September 23, 1933 memo documenting the public auction sale at 2:00 this day of the "Ketchum Bunkhouse" to Forrest McCoy, Ketchum, Idaho, for \$57.00].
- 1934 [January 12, 1934 letter to NIRA on "Completion of Ketchum Ranger Station, Sawtooth National Forest"].

Berry, Arthur H.

- 1932 [January 11, 1932 letter to Forest Supervisor describing construction of "Ketchum R. S. Bunkhouse," which building was sold September 23, 1933 and removed from the site].

Nichols, George L.

- 1933 [June 27, 1933 "Memorandum for Forest Supervisor, Sawtooth N. F.," regarding plans for the Ketchum Administrative Site].

Nichols, [George L.], [Arthur H.] Berry, [?] Eaton & [Tony?] Bonin

- 1933 [Improvement Plan, Ketchum Ranger Station, Sawtooth National Forest, mapped June 27, 1933].

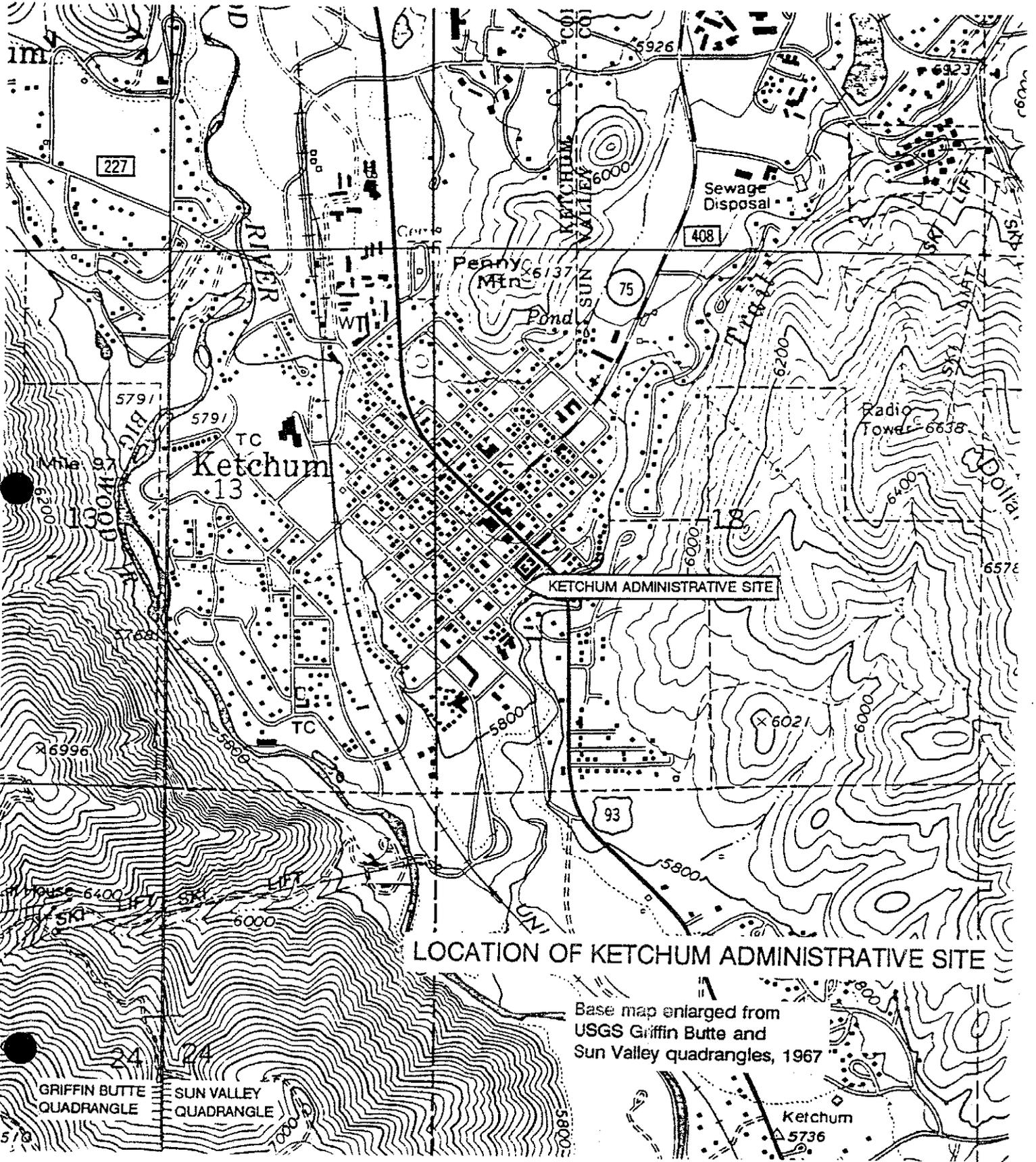
IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Purpose of Documentation

1. The Forest Service exchanged this property out of federal ownership on October 30, 1992. As no restrictive covenants were included, mitigation by HABS documentation is appropriate.

B. Report Preparation

2. Richard T. Malouf, Forest Archaeologist, Sawtooth National Forest, prepared the narrative and drawings September-October, 1992. Eva Jenkins, Weber State Archaeological Laboratory, prepared the photographs in June, 1989.

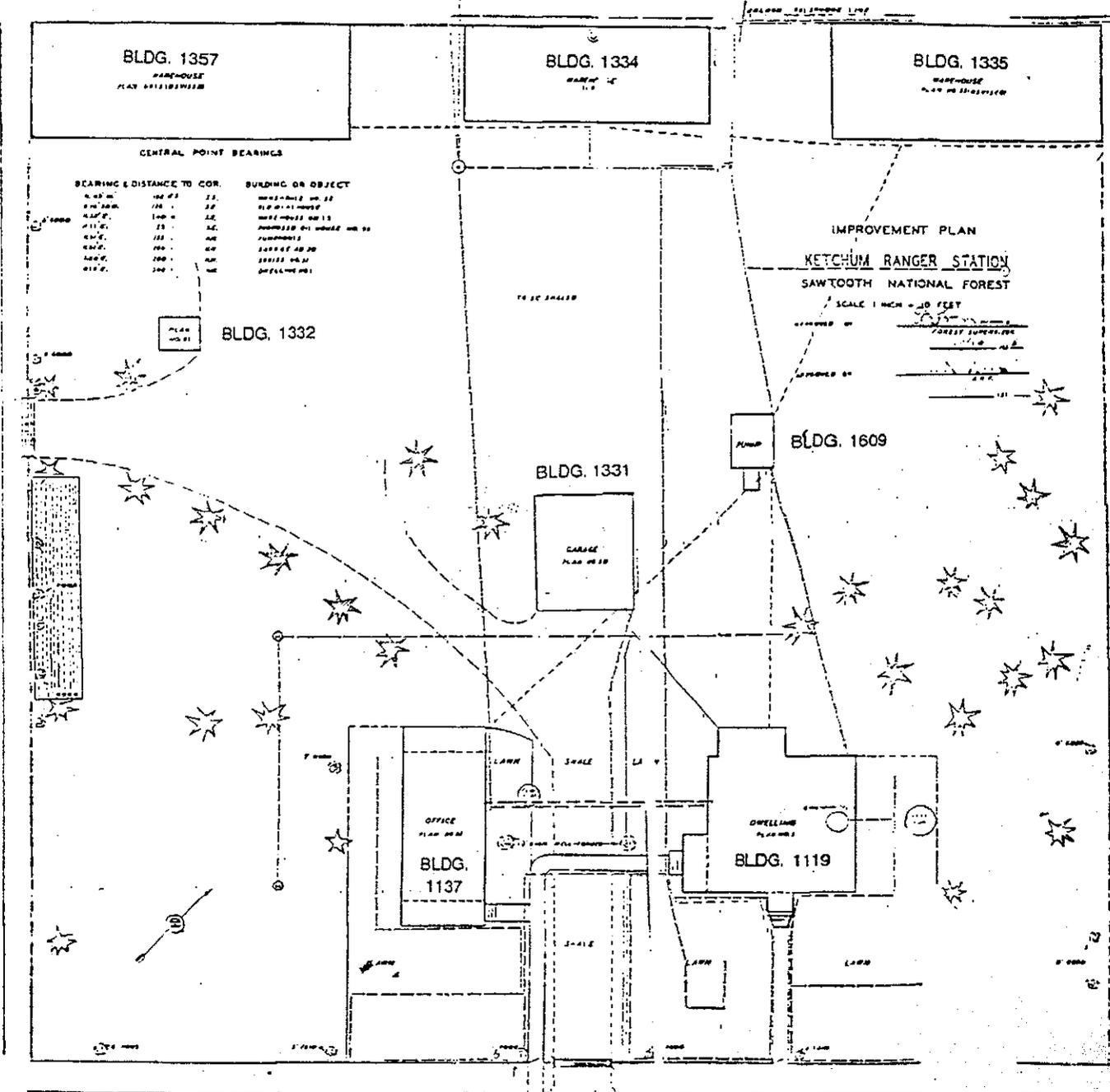


LOCATION OF KETCHUM ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

Base map enlarged from
USGS Griffin Butte and
Sun Valley quadrangles, 1967

GRIFFIN BUTTE
QUADRANGLE SUN VALLEY
QUADRANGLE

Ketchum
5736



SCALE: 1" = 34'

Ketchum Ranger Station